

JAN 23 2009

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A microbicidal composition comprising a synergistic mixture, the first component of which is 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone, and the second component of which is one or more commercial microbicides selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane, 1,3 dimethylol-5,5-dimethylhydantoin, phenoxyethanol, zinc pyrithione and climbazole; wherein a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to benzoic acid is from $1/0.13$ to $1/8$ or from $1/20$ to $1/67$, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to sorbic acid is from $1/4$ to $1/133$ $1/20$, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane is from $1/0.4$ to $1/100$ $1/10$ to $1/20$, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to 1,3 dimethylol-5,5-dimethylhydantoin is from $1/0.06$ to $1/80$ $1/11$ to $1/20$, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to phenoxyethanol is from $1/2$ to $1/800$ $1/30$ to $1/80$ or from $1/107$ to $1/133$, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to zinc pyrithione is from $1/0.0013$ to $1/13$ $1/0.16$ to $1/2.7$, and a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to climbazole is from $1/0.05$ to $1/24$ $1/0.6$ to $1/1.3$; and wherein the composition is substantially free of halogenated 3 isothiazolone.

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

3. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second component comprises sorbic acid and the ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to sorbic acid is from $1/4$ to $1/133$ $1/20$.

Claims 4-6 have been cancelled.

7. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second component comprises zinc pyrithione and the ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to zinc pyrithione is from $1/0.0013$ to $1/13$ $1/0.16$ to $1/2.7$.

8. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second component comprises climbazole and the ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to climbazole is from ~~1/0.05 to 1/24~~ 1/0.6 to 1/1.3.

9. (Currently amended) A microbicidal composition comprising a synergistic mixture, the first component of which is 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone, and the second component of which is one or more commercial microbicides selected from the group consisting of citric acid and benzyl alcohol; wherein the ratio of the first component to the second component is from 1/8 to 1/24 when the second component is citric acid; wherein the ratio of the first component to the second component is from 1/0.13 to 1/32 or from 1/80 to ~~1/4600~~ 1/600 when the second component is benzyl alcohol; and wherein the composition is substantially free of halogenated 3 isothiazolone.

10. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting the growth of microorganisms in a locus comprising introducing to, at or on, the locus a microorganism inhibiting amount of a synergistic mixture the first component of which is 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone, and the second component of which is one or more commercial microbicides selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane, 1,3 dimethylol-5,5-dimethylhydantoin, phenoxyethanol, zinc pyrithione and climbazole; wherein a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to benzoic acid is from 1/0.13 to 1/8 or from 1/20 to 1/67, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to sorbic acid is from 1/4 to ~~1/133~~ 1/20, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane is from ~~1/0.4 to 1/100~~ 1/10 to 1/20, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to 1,3 dimethylol-5,5-dimethylhydantoin is from ~~1/0.06 to 1/80~~ 1/11 to 1/20, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to phenoxyethanol is from ~~1/2 to 1/800~~ 1/30 to 1/80 or from 1/107 to 1/133, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to zinc pyrithione is from ~~1/0.0013 to 1/13~~ 1/0.16 to 1/2.7, and a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to climbazole is from ~~1/0.05 to 1/24~~ 1/0.6 to 1/1.3; and wherein the composition is substantially free of halogenated 3 isothiazolone; and

wherein the amount of synergistic mixture is from 0.1 to 10,000 parts per million active ingredient.

11. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 9 wherein the second component comprises citric acid and a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to citric acid is from 1/8 to 1/24.

12. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 9 wherein the second component comprises benzyl alcohol and a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to benzyl alcohol is from 1/80 to 1/400.

13. (New) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second component comprises phenoxyethanol and a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to phenoxyethanol is from 1/30 to 1/80.

14. (New) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second component comprises benzoic acid and a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to benzoic acid is from 1/0.13 to 1/8 or from 1/20 to 1/67.

15. (New) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second component comprises sorbic acid and a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to sorbic acid is from 1/4 to 1/20.